

**HATRED TOWARD WOMAN IN EMINEM'S ALBUM  
*THE MARSHAL MATHERS LP:*  
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for  
Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department

by

**RAHMA WIDHI SATRIAWATI**  
A.320 040 244

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

**2008**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Life without music is empty. Imagine the whole day in our lives we do not hear or listen to the music at all. How would you feel? Silent! Music makes us alive. It means music cheers up. But what actually is music? Music means something to hear and to listen. Music may come from many things. Bird song, musical instruments played, man whistled and even the sound of nature. Music that is going to be discussed here is music that is produced by human using musical instruments. We have been familiar with many kinds of music, pop music, rock music, jazz music, hip hop and rap music etc. Pop music deals with melodic sound, easy to listen and easy to remember lyrics. Pop music is very popular because of those reasons. Rock music is different from pop music. It has strong lyrics and not all people are able to enjoy this music. People sometimes have to understand the meaning of the song in order to enjoy it. Rap music also has strong lyrics. It contains rebellion, social disorder, racism, social and cultural critics, discrimination, protest against the system, equality and many more. The last word is mostly used by black rappers to show that they demand equality with the white.

Rap music grows in America and the rappers mostly the blacks who demand equality with the in America. America well known for the most democratic nation. It is very ironical to see the unfulfillment of equality

within the nation. When America was formed, America dream was set up and the dream has provided the motive power for all of American do in their daily lives. It is a powerful and motivating force that drives them in their process of living. It becomes the first step to build a nation. The equality and freedom are in the Declaration of Independence, '*we hold this truth to be self-evident, that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*'. However people cannot define the American Dream precisely. The first colonist came to the virgin land with their own dream of success. Some dreamed of gold, land, authority and profit. When they arrived in America, what they could find was only land. Therefore, they tried to fulfill their dreams through exploring the unlimited land by agriculture. Around two centuries later, this definition developed. The dream concept turned out to attain wealthy success such as early to bed and early to rise, makes a man wealthy and wise, save something for a rainy day. Later, the dream concept stretched more than just making money. The equality that they have demanded did not seem to be on the black people's side. Even now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the equality between the black and white has not been embraced yet.

Historically, in voicing what the black has demanded, they use hip hop and rap music. Hip hop is the culture (sub culture) and rap is the product of the culture. Rap music is the combination of beat, rhythm, rhyme and lyrics. Lyrics are more emphasized than the three elements because lyrics have strong power to actualize what the rapper is feeling.

Rap has a unique characteristic. It is not like pop artist who most of them are not writer, most rappers write their own lyrics, because the lyrics represent their feeling and true life. I believe that it is not easy to write other's true life. The rap music development is not easy as the generally people thought. They (black rappers) have to face some obstacles. One of them is because the equality with the black has not been held yet. Through years, they rapped and succeeded. Some rappers who helped developing rap music are Dr. Dre, Snoop Dog, Ice Cube, DMX, Run DMC and so on. In the early 1990's, rap has been so popular among the whites. One of the famous rappers is Vanilla Ice. Vanilla Ice is the first solo rapper. Ice's first album hit the chart and gained success. The hit single 'Ice Ice Baby' was sold 15 million copies and become the first rap single to hit No.1. Unfortunately his success did not age well. He was drug-addicted and almost died of an overdose. Publicly, he remained fairly silent for the next few years. He then showed up again in 1998 with a brand new Vanilla Ice, he was 'rocking' instead of rapping. Learning from that, the other whites try to rap in different way. They combined rap and other music genres such as rock, R&B and even pop music. However they succeeded. Some musicians who get success are Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit, Kid Rock, P.O.D., Papa Roach, Crazy Town and many more.

In 1996, another white rapper emerged. It was surprising since there was no rapper who succeeded before. The Rapper calls himself Eminem. Eminem was born in Kansas City on October 17<sup>th</sup> 1972 from a father Bruce Mathers Briggs and a mother Deborah Mathers Briggs. Eminem lived in

black society and that made him grow as a rude boy. When he made his first record “Slim Shady” in 1996, the name Slim Shady is the representation of Eminem’s evil side. Then the name Eminem itself actually come from the name Marshal Mathers, which is his name given by his parents. M&M is the short name of Marshal Mathers and to make it easier to remember, he calls himself Eminem. Eminem made his debut album ‘Slim Shady LP’ succeeded. He succeeded in reaching fame and inviting critics. The issues of the lyrics are racism, hatred for woman, social critics etc. his controversial lyrics and funny video brought him fame. His first single ‘My Name is’ gained success. It is a funny video and insulted many artist like Nine Inch Nail, Pamela Anderson and even his own mother.

Eminem is not an average rapper. He managed to go on national tour months before his debut album is released. He is phenomenal. He is a white man but he managed to place himself among the black. The white is identical to rock music or rock ‘n roll music. The white raps that is one thing. He made both white and black put their thumbs up for him. Snoop Dog, one famous black rapper, writes in Eminem’s song ‘Drug Ballad’:  
” The Great White American Hope”.

For Eminem, his potentially controversial and undoubtedly offensive songs which strike a chord with multitude of hip hop loyalists have little to lose and everything to gain. He said *“I’m not alone in feeling the way I feel. I believe that everybody can relate to my shit, whether white or black. It doesn’t matter. Everybody has through some shit. Whether it is drastic or not*

so drastic. Everybody gets to the point of I don't give a fuck.". The researcher assumes that the underlined words symbolize how he does not care of what everybody thinks of him. He does not care if his song is insulting other people (especially artist), killing his wife, humiliating homosexual and lesbian etc. We can see some lyrics about his hatred towards woman in some song in his album *The Marshal Mathers LP*:

*...My fuckin bitch mom's suin for ten million  
she must want a dollar for every pill I've been stealin  
Shit, where the fuck you think I picked up the habit?  
All I had to do was go in her room and lift up her mattress  
which is it bitch, Mrs. Briggs or Ms. Mathers?.....*

**Taken from 'Marshal Mathers'**

*.....Hey Slim, that's my girlfriend screamin in the trunk  
but I didn't slit her throat, I just tied her up, see I ain't like you  
cause if she suffocates she'll suffer more, and then she'll die too ...*

**Taken from 'Stan'**

*(AHHH!) Put your hands down bitch, I ain't gon' shoot you  
I'ma take a pull on this bullet, and put it through you  
(AHHH!) Shut up slut, you're causin too much chaos  
Just bend over and take it like a slut, okay Ma?  
"Oh, now he's raping his own mother, abusing a whore, ..*

**Taken from 'Kill You'**

His hatred toward woman is really shown in those lyrics. He calls woman as bitch, slut and whores. He does not use the word woman or girl in his songs very often, just once or twice. His hatred toward woman started when he was a child. He was not well taken care of by his mother. His mother was an alcoholic. They moved to other places before they finally settled down in Detroit. He married to Kim in a very young age. Their marriage lasted for

only several years. After they had a baby girl named Hailey, Kim left Eminem and Hailey for another man. These two women were enough to be the reason why he hated woman so much.

When the first single 'My Name Is' gained success, it encouraged Eminem to make another record that contains no less controversial songs. He made the album 'The Marshal Mathers LP'. It contains 18 charts including 4 skips. This record made some hits: **The Real Slim Shady, The Way I Am, Stan, Kill You** and **Kim**. The unique thing of this album is that this record contains more controversial. Braver lyrics but it gained many awards. Those awards are from the Grammy Award: The Best Male Rap Performance of the Year 2001, The Best Rap Album of the Year 2001 and The Best Rap Song of the year 2001. From the British Award: The Best International Male Singer of the Year 2001. From MTV award: The Best Video of the Year 2001 and The Best Male Performance of the Year 2001.

Eminem controversial songs cannot be separated from his past. His fatherless life has affected so much his career. His hazy past plays an important role in shaping Eminem to be what he is now and leads him to speak his hatred toward woman. That is what will be uncovered in the analysis. Therefore, the researcher decides to conduct a research focused on the hatred of Eminem to the women that reflected in 'Marshal Mathers LP' album by using sociological perspective with the title 'HATRED TOWARD WOMAN IN EMINEM ALBUM *'MARSHAL MATHERS LP'*: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

## B. Literary Review

In relation to the topic of the study, these are several studies:

1. Sisca Candra Mahera (2008)

In her studies entitle “Beliefs and Values in Kurt Cobain’s lyrics of Nirvana’s Song: A Sociological Approach” found that the lyrics of nirvana is written by Kurt Cobain is reflection of the norm, system of values, life style, and behavior.

2. Jasinta Bintang Pratiwi(2007)

In her studies entitle “Tension between Social Order and Economic Interest in Mario Puzo’s The God Father: A Sociological Approach” found that the sociological analysis shows that some aspect in the life can influence some peoples, way of life, and the daily life is formed by environment and the society around them.

3. Retno Maruti (2007)

In her studies entitle: “The Influence of the Early Twentieth century American society on F.Scott Fitzgerald’s THE GREAT GATSBY” found that social status has changed the whole of his life stile. Although the only becomes a newly rich man, he feels so proud and whatever he wants, he will get.

Based on the above study. It’s clear that those study mostly deal with life style and the influence of some aspect of life to the daily life. However there don’t discuss about the Hatred toward something, therefore in this study I want to fulfill the gap the studies.

**C. Problem Statement**

The study focused on how the hatred towards woman is reflected in Eminem's album '*The Marshal Mathers LP*'.

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses on the analysis of Eminem album 'Marshal Mathers LP' viewed from the Sociological perspective; it is because the researcher wants to analyze the hatred toward woman reflected in the Marshal Mathers LP album sociologically.

**E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To describe the structural elements of the lyrics
2. To analyze the album by means of sociological approach to find the Eminem hatred towards woman in the lyrics.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study expected from the study are follows:

**1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researcher who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in the study.

## 2. Practical Benefit

It is used for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

## G. Research Method

Dealing with research method the researcher uses the qualitative method. This research will discuss hatred towards woman in some songs that have been selected. There will be at least four points that need to be involved as follows:

### 1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Eminem album 'Marshal Mathers LP' because the researcher wants to analyze the hatred toward woman is reflected in the Marshal Mathers LP album sociologically

### 2. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

In this study, there are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data source.

#### a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data sources are the lyrics that show hatred towards woman in the album '**The Marshal Mathers LP**'. The album is produced by Dr. Dre and Eminem himself, published by Eight Mile Style (BMI) and Ensign Music Cooperation (BMI), recorded and mixed by Richard 'Segal' Huredia. The lyrics were written by Eminem, Dr. Dre, A. Young, M. Bradford, M. Bass, D-12, D. Armstrong and P. Herman.

b. Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data sources are some material related to the data required. The data are taken from biography, interviews, news, articles and everything related to the problem statements.

**3. Technique of the Data Collection.**

In conducting the study, the writer uses the techniques of documentation in collecting data:

- a. Reading the lyrics repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important pack from primary and secondary data available.
- c. Selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.

**4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive analysis of content. The analysis begun from the structural analysis of the Eminem album 'Marshal Mathers LP' and finally the sociological analysis of the literary work.